IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method of transferring electronic cash from ~~an~~ first user device ~~information processing apparatus in a shop~~ to a second user device, ~~characterized by~~ said method comprising:

mutually authenticating the first user device ~~said information processing apparatus in a shop~~ and ~~said~~ the second user device; ~~mutually authenticating each other and~~

sharing a temporary key ~~there~~between the first user device and the second user device;

appending, at the first ~~said~~ user device, a signature associated with the first user device to a monetary amount of electronic cash that is to be transferred from the first user device to the second user device;

encrypting, at the first user device, the transfer ~~a~~ monetary amount of electronic cash ~~to be transferred,~~ and the appended ~~with a~~ signature ~~of said~~ associated with the first user device~~,~~ ~~with said~~ using the temporary key;~~, and~~

transmitting, from the first user device to the second user device, the encrypted transfer monetary amount of electronic cash and the encrypted signature associated with the first user device~~to said information processing apparatus in a shop~~;

decrypting, at the second user device, ~~said information processing apparatus in a shop decrypting said~~ the encrypted transfer monetary amount of electronic cash and the encrypted signature associated with the first user device ~~received thereby with said~~ using the temporary key; ~~and retrieving said~~

adding, at the second user device, the transfer monetary amount of electronic cash to a stored monetary

amount of electronic cash associated with the second user device;

appending, at the second user device, a signature associated with the second user device to the transfer monetary amount of electronic cash; ~~said information processing apparatus in a shop~~

encrypting, ~~said~~ at the second user device, the transfer monetary amount of electronic cash and the appended ~~with said~~ signature ~~of said~~ associated with the second user device ~~user device with said~~ using the temporary key; ~~and~~

transmitting, from the second user device to the first user device, the encrypted transfer monetary amount of electronic cash and the encrypted signature associated with the second ~~to said~~ user device; ~~and~~

decrypting, at the first ~~said~~ user device, ~~decrypting said encrypted~~ the encrypted transfer monetary amount ~~received thereby with said~~ of electronic cash and the encrypted signature associated with the second user device using the temporary key; and

subtracting, at the first user device, the transfer ~~adding said~~ monetary amount of electronic cash from a stored ~~to the~~ monetary amount of electronic cash associated with the first ~~previously held by said~~ user device.

7. (currently amended) The electronic cash transfer method according to claim 6, wherein~~:~~ the signature associated with the first user device is a device number unique to the first user device, the temporary key is a public key of a management apparatus, and

the first user device appends the unique device number to the transfer monetary amount of electronic cash, encrypts ~~said information processing apparatus in a shop~~ ~~transmits~~ the transfer monetary amount of electronic cash

~~to be transferred together~~ and the appended ~~with a~~ unique device number ~~unique to~~ using the public key of the management apparatus, ~~said information processing apparatus in a shop~~ and transmits the encrypted transfer monetary amount of electronic cash and the encrypted unique device number ~~with a public key of a management apparatus~~ to ~~said~~ the second user device.

8. (cancelled)

9. (new) The electronic cash transfer method according to claim 6, wherein the second user device adds the transfer monetary amount of electronic cash to the stored monetary amount of electronic cash associated with the second user device, appends the associated with the second user device to the transfer monetary amount of electronic cash, encrypts the transfer monetary amount of electronic cash and the appended signature associated with the second user device, and transmits the encrypted transfer monetary amount of electronic cash and the encrypted signature associated with the second user device to the first user device when the decrypted signature associated with the first user device authenticates the first user device.

10. (new) The electronic cash transfer method according to claim 6, wherein the first user device subtracts the transfer monetary amount of electronic cash from the stored monetary amount of electronic cash associated with the first user device when the decrypted signature associated with the second user device authenticates the second user device.

11. (new) The electronic cash transfer method according to claim 6, further comprising:

appending, at the first user device, the signature associated with the first user device to data indicating a completed transfer of electronic cash from the first user device to the second user device;

encrypting, at the first user device, the data indicating the completed transfer of electronic cash and the appended signature associated with the first user device using the temporary key;

transmitting, from the first user device to the second user device, the encrypted data indicating the completed transfer of electronic cash and the encrypted signature associated with the first user device; and

decrypting, at the second user device, the encrypted data indicating the completed transfer of electronic cash and the encrypted signature associated with the first user device using the temporary key.